

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION:

In accordance with the foregoing, claim 2 has been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 1, 7, 10, and 11 have been amended. No new matter is being presented, and approval and entry are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 3-14 are pending and under consideration. Reconsideration is requested.

ENTRY OF AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116:

Applicant requests entry of this Rule 116 Response because the amendments of claims 1, 7, 10, and 11 should not entail any further search by the Examiner since no new features are being added or no new issues are being raised; and the amendments incorporate recitations which were determined to be allowable in the Office Action of November 26, 2004. No new features or new issues are being raised.

The Manual of Patent Examining Procedures sets forth in Section 714.12 that "any amendment that would place the case either in condition for allowance or in better form for appeal may be entered." Moreover, Section 714.13 sets forth that "the Proposed Amendment should be given sufficient consideration to determine whether the claims are in condition for allowance and/or whether the issues on appeal are simplified." The Manual of Patent Examining Procedures further articulates that the reason for any non-entry should be explained expressly in the Advisory Action.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102:

In the Office Action, at page 2, claims 1-5 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,802,361 to Katherine Wang ("Wang"). The reasons for the rejection are set forth in the Office Action and therefore not repeated. The rejection is traversed and reconsideration is requested.

Claims 2-3 and 7 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Because independent claims 1, 7, 10, and

11 include the recitations of objected claim 2, it is respectfully asserted that the rejection to the claims is rendered moot and requested that independent claims 1, 7, 10, and 11 and related dependent claims be allowed.

CONCLUSION:

In accordance with the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome and/or rendered moot and further, that all pending claims patentably distinguish over the prior art. There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, the application is submitted as being in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited. At a minimum, this Amendment should be entered at least for purposes of Appeal, since it either clarifies and/or narrows the issues for consideration by the Board.

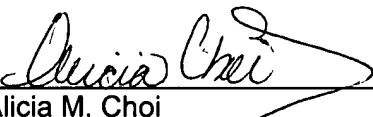
If the Examiner has any remaining issues to be addressed, it is believed that prosecution can be expedited and possibly concluded by the Examiner's contacting the undersigned attorney for a telephone interview to discuss any such remaining issues.

If there are any underpayments or overpayments of fees associated with the filing of this Amendment, please charge and/or credit the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: ____ August 16, 2004 ____

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